Cody Meadow Restoration Project (February 10, 2014)

Background

- Cody Meadow is located approximately 32 miles east of Placerville, California in the Eldorado National Forest.
- Cody Meadow sits at the headwaters of Cody Creek at an elevation of approximately 7,600 feet. The main part of the meadow is approximately 65 acres in size.
- Cody Creek drains into Strawberry Creek, which drains into South Fork American River. Cody Creek contains rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss). Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs (Rana sierra) were identified in the meadow in 2004 and 2005.
- The condition of Cody Meadow was rated as "Functional-at-risk" in 2004 and 2005. The rating was largely based on a number of erosional features the meadow, which includes headcuts, numerous small channels (in addition to Cody Creek), and short segments Cody Creek where the channel is actively eroding laterally. In addition, there are areas in the meadow with little riparian vegetation.
- Past land disturbances in the small watershed surrounding Cody Meadow include timber harvest, roads and skid trails, and livestock use. A road parallels the western edge of the meadow, and another road (with a culvert) crosses the meadow. Current recreational uses include camping, hunting, OHV use.
- Cody Meadow is part of a grazing allotment. Grazing occurs from August 1 to August 15 by 350
 head of cattle (approximate dates and number). Cody Meadow has not been grazed in the past five
 years.

Major actions of the Cody Meadow Restoration Project

- 1.) Remove or rehabilitate approx. 2.6 miles of roads and trails surrounding the meadow (as shown in the attachment).
- 2.) Remove the road (and its culvert) that cuts across the meadow, and replace with some kind of bridge that allows for passage by people and horses (no vehicles). The bridge would be approximately 300 feet in length.
- 3.) Prevent vehicle access to the meadow by vehicles (i.e. many boulders). Vehicles can drive to within 0.3 miles of the meadow on road 10N04, with designated parking areas adjacent to road10N04.
- 4.) Construct a trail (for people and horses) from road 10N04 down to the meadow. The trail would be approximately 0.3 miles in length, and would connect to the existing Cody Creek trail.
- 5.) Design a version of a plug-and-pond project for the meadow. There will be several clusters of small ponds (less than 20 feet across for each) scattered throughout the meadow.
- 6.) Construction of several small rock check dams (less than 2 feet high) in the lower part of the meadow. (*Not yet decided*).
- 7.) The Cody cabin/outhouse/spring (at the end of a road next to the west side of the meadow) would be evaluated by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)? (Not yet decided).



